

OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN THOMAS M. DAVIS III
11TH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
June 14, 2006

Contact: Robert White/ Andrea LeBlanc
(202) 225-5074

Davis Statement on GAO Metro Report

WASHINGTON, DC – Congressman Tom Davis (R-VA-11th) issued the following statement today upon the release by the Government Accountability Office of its report, GAO-06-516, “Issues Related to Providing Dedicated Funding for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority.”

Davis has introduced H.R. 3496, which would provide \$1.5 billion over 10 years in federal investment to the Metro system, to be matched by local, dedicated funding and an enhanced federal oversight role for the agency.

“As the GAO report shows, dedicated funding is a crucial element for nearly all of the largest mass transit agencies in the United States. A dedicated, recurring stream of funding can lend stability to a transit agency’s operations, enabling the agency to conduct long-term planning more accurately and more effectively.

“On average, large mass transit systems receive 70 percent of their state and local funding in the form of dedicated revenue streams, according to the GAO. Half of the largest transit systems in the nation receive at least 90 percent of their state and local funding in the form of these dedicated appropriations.

“And then there’s Metro, which trails far, far behind. Of the major transit agencies that receive some form of dedicated funding, none receives a smaller percentage than the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority.”

“I was also pleased to see the GAO acknowledge that Metro faces ‘unique demands’ because it provides daily transportation for a substantial portion of the federal workforce – and, in fact, that the federal government has located its facilities near subway stations to take advantage of mass-transit options.”

#####